

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for delivering information to a plurality of mobile recipients having mobile communications devices capable of receiving text messages, said system comprising:

at least one process server;

at least one memory comprising:

a plurality of desired information listings corresponding to each of a plurality of recipients, said plurality of desired information listings including data indicative of information desired by each respective one of said plurality of recipients, and

a plurality of telephone identification listings corresponding to said plurality of recipients; and

a telephone link through which said plurality of recipients can initiate telephone calls to access said process server;

wherein said process server uses said plurality of telephone identification listings to identify a recipient upon said recipient initiating a telephone call to said telephone link; and

in response to identifying said recipient, said process server initiates a process whereby said desired information is provided to said recipient.

2. The system for delivering information to a plurality of mobile recipients having mobile communications devices capable of receiving text messages according to claim 1, wherein:

said process server identifies a caller ID of said recipient to identify said recipient in a manner that reduces telephone charges otherwise incurred by said recipient in calling said telephone link.

3. The system for delivering information to a plurality of mobile recipients having mobile communications devices capable of receiving text messages according to claim 1, further comprising:

an information transfer link through which said process server
5 can send said desired information to said recipient.

4. The system for delivering information to a plurality of mobile recipients having mobile communications devices capable of receiving text messages according to claim 1, wherein said information
10 transfer link comprises:

a text messaging service associated with said process server to provide desired information for said recipient to said recipient in a text format upon initiation of a telephone call by said recipient to said telephone link.
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5. The system for delivering information to a plurality of mobile recipients having mobile communications devices capable of receiving text messages according to claim 4, wherein said text messaging services comprises:
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a text messaging service that permits delivery of text messages to said recipient via at least one of a pager and a cellular telephone.

6. The system for delivering information to a plurality of mobile recipients having mobile communications devices capable of receiving text messages according to claim 1, further comprising:
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an interactive data access device that said process server may access in response to receipt of a telephone call from said recipient such that said process server can obtain desired information for said
30 recipient.

7. A method of providing electronic mail notification to a communications device, comprising:

associating an electronic mail account with a first phone number;

5 calling said first phone number from a communications device; and

providing said electronic mail message to said communications device after said communications device calls the first phone number.

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8. The method of providing electronic mail notification to a communications device according to claim 7, further comprising:

obtaining a communications device identifier when said communications device dials said first phone number; and

15 using said communications device identifier to select said electronic mail message.

9. A method of providing information to a remotely located, portable communication device, comprising:

correlating at least one information unit represented by a text message maintained by a database system with a first phone number of an information retrieval system and a second phone number of a remotely located, portable communication device;

calling said first phone number with said remotely located, portable communication device, wherein said information retrieval system having said first phone number identifies said portable communication device using said second phone number;

establishing and terminating said call to said first phone number;

retrieving said at least one information unit from said database system using said information retrieval system; and

providing said information to said portable communication device using said second phone number.

10. The method of providing information to a remotely located, portable communication device according to claim 9, wherein said portable communication device comprises:

a text messaging capable cellular telephone.

11. The method of providing information to a remotely located, portable communication device according to claim 9, wherein identification of said portable communication device includes:

utilization of caller ID information.

12. The method of providing information to a remotely located, portable communication device according to claim 9, wherein:

termination of said call to said first phone number is performed after a first ring.

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13. The method of providing information to a remotely located, portable communication device according to claim 9, wherein:

each instance of providing information to said portable communication device incurs no marginal cost to a user of said portable communication device.

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14. The method of providing information to a remotely located, portable communication device according to claim 9, wherein:

providing information to said portable communication device from said database system via said information retrieval system occurs only once in response to each incidence of calling said first phone number from said portable communication device.

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15. A method of providing database access, comprising:

associating a first piece of information with a first communications device identifier in a system;

detecting a first communications device identifier when said first communications device is used to contact said system;

retrieving said first piece of information in response to detection of said first communications device identifier; and

transmitting said first piece of information to said first communications device following retrieval of said first piece of information.

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16. The method of providing database access according to claim 15, wherein:

5 said first piece of information is associated with said first communications device identifier by designating a first piece of information as information that is to be transmitted to a telephone number assigned to said first communications device.

10 17. The method of providing database access according to claim 16, wherein said designation of said first piece of information as information that is to be transmitted to a telephone number assigned to said first communications device comprises:

 designating a selected stock quotation to be transmitted to said first communications device.

15 18. The method of providing database access according to claim 16, wherein said designation of said first piece of information as information that is to be transmitted to a telephone number assigned to said first communications device comprises:

20 designating a selected traffic report that is to be transmitted to said first communications device.

 19. The method of providing database access according to claim 16, wherein said detection of said first communications device identifier comprises:

25 identifying said telephone number of said first communications device when said first communication device contacts said system via telephony.

20. The method of providing database access according to claim 19, wherein said identification of said telephone number of said first communications device comprises:

- 5 using caller ID to identify said first communications device prior to a telephone connection being established between said communications device and said system.

21. The method of providing database access according to claim 19, wherein said transmission of said first piece of information to
10 said first communications device comprises:

- 15 sending a text message to said first communications device using said telephone number of said first communications device.